

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated April 15, 2005, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on July 15, 2005.

In replacement Figure 8, previously omitted rack 182 and cutting member 219 elements have been added. The Specification has been amended in accordance therewith.

Claims 1 - 38 remain pending in the application and are shown above. Claims 11, 13, 20, 21, 24, and 25 are objected to by the Examiner. Claims 11, 13, 20, 21, 24, and 25 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 30-35, respectively. Reconsideration of the rejected claims is requested for reasons presented below.

§ 102

Claims 1-10, 12, 14-19, 22, 23 and 26-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Shaw*, US 4,800,968 or *Boyadjieff*, US 4,625,796.

Shaw discloses a tilt mechanism adapted to tilt the bails supporting an elevator. The tilt mechanism has a hemispherically shaped bearing area for mounting the tilt mechanism to link pins 8. *Boyadjieff* discloses a link tilting mechanism similar to the tilt mechanism in *Shaw*. The references do not teach, show, or suggest a pivotable mechanism having a bore therethrough, as recited in claim 1.

The references also do not teach, show, or suggest a structural intermediate pivotable from the top drive and wherein the tubular gripping member is rotatable by the top drive, as recited in claim 2.

Further, the references do not teach, show, or suggest a tubular gripping member rotatable relative to the top drive and pivoting the tubular gripping member away from the center of the well, as recited in claim 6.

Further, the references do not teach, show, or suggest a tubular gripping member pivotally connected by a tubular structural intermediate, as recited in claim 16.

Further, the references do not teach, show, or suggest a tubular gripping member for gripping the casing string in the non-vertical position, as recited in claim 18. (Shaw, Figure 6) As shown in Figure 6, even when the elevator is tilted away, the tubular is still in a vertical position.

Further, the references do not teach, show, or suggest an interlock system connected to the first gripping member and the second gripping member, the interlock system adapted to ensure that at least one of the first gripping member or the second gripping member is connected to the tubular, as recited in claim 22.

Further, the references do not teach, show, or suggest the structural intermediate and the gripping member provide fluid communication to an inner diameter of the casing string, as recited in new claim 37.

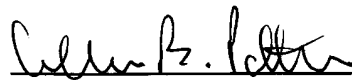
Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, alone or in combination, do not teach, show, or suggest the invention as claimed.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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IN THE DRAWINGS:

Figure 8 has been replaced by the attached replacement Figure 8. In replacement Figure 8, previously omitted rack and cutting member elements have been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet